

DCT trains ICDC medics

Iron Steel medics help train ICDC's first medical platoon

By Staff Sgt. Mark Bell
372nd MPAD

CAMP STEEL FALCON, Iraq - With the goal of Iraqi's working toward a better tomorrow, the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) took that step forward to helping themselves when 66 ICDC graduated from the first combat medic course offered in Iraq.

Thanks to medics from the 1st Armored Division Artillery Combat Team (DCT) and other units, the ICDC in the Al Rashid district of southern Baghdad now have trained medical specialists similar to the U.S. Army's combat lifesaver course graduates.

After graduating, 50 of the medics will be integrated down to the individual platoons of the 304th ICDC Battalion, according to 1st Lt. Chad Swaims, 35, from Batesville, Ark., the DCT surgeon. The remaining 16 will be integrated into other ICDC units throughout the Baghdad area.

"We utilized as a base program the Army's combat lifesaver program and had it translated to Arabic and expounding on it," he said. "They are learning the ABC's of basic life-saving skills here."

From learning how to apply basic first-aid skills, to the combat lifesaver's favorite "sticking" their fellow classmates, Swaims said he hopes the new graduates take away a from the course more than the skills they learned during the week-long instructional course.

"I hope they have learned that we are here to help them, and this is the first step to helping them work separately from the coalition forces," he said. "Everywhere you have ground troops, you'll have to have medics in combat zones."

Swaims said what makes this inaugural class special is the "extra" help they received from within the ICDC attending the course. Because the ICDC is based on volunteers, they have several doctors and other medical staff that have helped in teaching the course.

"It's great to see them teaching each other," he said after students completed the written examination. "We have doctors who are very knowledgeable and are able to better communicate in their own language what we are trying to teach here."

Although the class was very informative and intensive, Swaims said he hopes to see this course grow and lead to more advanced training for the ICDC.

"I would love to see this course be much longer than what we were able to provide this week," he said. "I could easily see it growing to two or three



An Iraqi "patient" keeps a close on his fellow Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) combat medic course student while he carefully sticks an intravenous needle in his arm.

weeks."

Eventually, Swaims said he would love to see the ICDC be qualified emergency medical technicians (EMT).

"Why not?" he asked about giving the ICDC a chance to learn more about modern basic emergency medicine. "It will only help them make a better impact in the communities here. I would like to see this mimic the Army's old 10-week combat medic program, where they learn how to do additional duties such as sick call, as well as combat medicine"

With both female and male ICDCs in the course, one Iraqi said he thinks having females in the course is a great thing for the ICDC and Iraq.

"I would trust her if I needed medical help," he said. "I hope more females join the ICDC. This training is a very good thing for me and my country."

Whether they were learning the basics of splinting a fracture or successful providing an I.V., the ICDCs took a lot of self-importance in their work, said Swaims.

"I hope they gain a sense of pride in themselves," he said. "Now they have this tool to stabilize and continue on in a stable democratic environment after we are long gone from here."

Melting pot of units brings enhanced capabilities to DCT

Let me start by welcoming the wide variety of units to the DIVARTY Combat Team. Your abilities and experience will greatly enhance the capabilities of 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment and the rest of the DIVARTY Combat Team. I look forward to working with all of your soldiers, non-commissioned officers, and officers as we continue to make the Al Rashid District of Baghdad a better place for the Iraqi people.

That being said, I do understand that there will be some "growing pains" as we learn each other's capabilities and limitations. As professional soldiers committed to the same mission, I expect that these will be quickly identified and mitigated so that we can accomplish our mission safely and with the utmost efficiency. Our soldiers demand no less from us and as the senior non-commissioned officer in the DCT, I charge every



Command Sgt. Maj. David Kantor

non-commissioned officer with the solemn duty of taking care of the soldiers. I expect all non-commissioned officers to lead by example and search for solutions to whatever problems arise. Non-commissioned officers will concentrate on fixing problems, not fixing blame. I encourage all non-commissioned officers to meet with your coun-

terparts in your sister battalions and learn from them. The threat is constantly finding ways to adapt to our techniques: we must constantly search for ways to make it difficult for them to do so. The professionalism and technical proficiency of the non-commissioned officer, the highly trained soldier, and the tactically competent officer are the keys to success of the mission. All of us must do our part.

As a final note, we are in a unique position. With so many different units and different capabilities, we, as leaders, are in a position to learn about different battlefield operating systems from the experts. We should strive to learn as much as we can from our fellow soldiers, non-commissioned officers, and officers so that we can become more complete leaders.

Welcome to the DIVARTY Combat Team.

STEEL 7 out.

Got Water?

Remember to
keep hydrating
in cooler
weather.

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Col. Teddy R. Spain, commander of the 18th Military Police Brigade, 1st Armored Division, says goodbye to his friends in the Iraqi Police Service after nearly a year of working side-by-side with them to reestablish security in Iraq Jan 20.

18th MPs say goodbye to Iraqi police

**Story and photo by Mark S. Rickert,
372nd MPAD**

Baghdad, Iraq - The 18th Military Police Brigade, 1st Armored Division, said goodbye to Iraqi police senior leaders during a farewell ceremony at warrior palace in Baghdad Jan 20.

The 18th Military Brigade is slated to leave Baghdad in February. After nearly a year of working side-by-side with the Iraqi police seniors, the MPs have formed tight bonds with the Iraqis, and saying goodbye was not easy.

"I believe the Iraqis will remember you with gratitude because you have proven to them that you are friends to Iraq and the Iraqi people," said Nurry Badran, minister of interior of Iraq.

"There is a fellowship in policing that crosses the continents," said Douglas Brandt, advisor to the Iraqi chief of police.

During the ceremony, the brigade leaders asked the Iraqis to carry on the determination and hard work needed to get the Iraqi police department started again.

Spain said when the 18th MPs arrived in Baghdad, the Iraqi police force lacked equipment and training. The stations were looted and burned. Now, the Iraqi police force is standing again.

"To understand the progress we've made together in Baghdad, you had to see what the city looked like in April," said Spain. "The Iraqis had no uniforms or weapons or equipment. Now they have it all."

Spain also promised to keep an eye on the Iraqi police force in the future-no matter where he is.

"I'll be watching you on television," promised Spain. "My soldiers gave their lives for this country. I hope you remember that and continue to make a difference. The key to the future of Iraq is the security force."

Army vet helps teaches spay and neutering techniques to Iraqi vets

**Story by Mark S. Rickert,
372nd MPAD**

Baghdad, Iraq - Army veterinary Soldiers, along with Iraqi vets, performed the Iraqi Society for Animal Welfare's first neutering procedure there Jan 29 as part of an animal population control program started by the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

Until now, spaying and neutering has been low on Iraq's totem pole of priorities. The procedure is rarely executed here; most veterinary clinics in Baghdad are geared toward agriculture and food-animal production, said Col. Mark E. Gants, a Coalition Joint Task Force veterinarian attached to the 30th Medical Brigade.

With a lack spaying and neutering, Iraq is practically raining cats and dogs. The prewar Iraqi way of animal population control--the old regime paid the Iraqis 250 Dinars per stray animal, dead or alive--became nonexistent after conflicts began. Since then, the animal population has skyrocketed, said Capt. William E. Sumner, a civil affairs officer with the 354th.

The possibility of a breeding craze got the civil affairs units involved with animal population control, and this spade-and-neuter program is one of many steps toward doing that.

Now that the civil affairs team has the Iraqi Society for Animal Welfare up and running, Soldiers want veterinarians that can give standard operations there. But the education system in Iraq has not stressed the importance of spaying and neutering, and the Iraqi veterinarians received substandard training in these procedures, said Sumner. Most veterinarians in Iraq never even touch an animal during their four years of college.

"This is not a common practice in Iraq," said Farrah Murrai, assistant director at the Baghdad zoo and director of the Iraqi Society for Animal Welfare. "In school we only read about the operation."

The civil affairs team brought in Army to lead the neutering operations while the Iraqis assisted and took notes.

"By having U.S. veterinarians teach the Iraqi vets, we are increasing their overall skill level that their education denied them," said Sumner. "This enables the Iraqi vets to learn and pass on what they've learned, so they can establish a functional animal population control system to eliminate over population."



Col. Mark E. Gants, a Coalition Joint Task Force veterinarian attached to the 30th Medical Brigade, leads a neutering operation at the Iraqi Society of Animal Welfare in Baghdad Jan 29.

Photo by Spc. Blanka Stratford

1AD opens refurbished school

Combined efforts between field artillery and civil affairs units help bring smiles to Baghdad children

Story and photos by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The more than 250 students and teachers welcomed Soldiers at the grand opening of the Kalid Al-Walid elementary school in Al-Yarmuk district of Baghdad Jan 26.

The opening is the result of several months work by Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, along with the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Abilene, Texas, part of Task Force 1st Armored Division, and contracted workers in the community.

The children clapped and sang as Lt. Col. Richard Bowyer, commander of 4-1 FA, and the school's headmaster cut the shiny, red ribbon to reopen the refurbished school building.

Surveying the integrity of the structure months ago, Bowyer said he knew major repairs were going to be necessary to bring the school building up to a functional standard.

"Before we started this project, the school's roof leaked, the classroom windows were shattered and the bathrooms were not functioning," said Bowyer. "In addition, there was poor lighting in the classrooms, all the



Lt. Col Richard Bowyer, commander of the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, with help from the school headmaster, cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the Kalid Al-Walid elementary school in the Al-Yarmuk district of Baghdad Jan 26.



Pfc. James Taylor, driver with 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, passes out candy to students at the grand opening of the Kalid Al-Walid elementary school in the Al-Yarmuk district of Baghdad Jan 26.

doors were missing, there were no fans or cooling systems and parts of the structure had fallen in."

As fate would have it, Bowyer incidentally met up with Earl Rawlings, a representative from the Rawlings Foundation, a charitable organization in the U.S. Rawlings had been looking for a project to assist in the reconstruction of Iraq. Bowyer knew just the project.

"After coordinating with Rawlings and his organization in the states, they cut us a check for \$10,000 for the first round of restorations to Kalid Al-Walid elementary school," said Bowyer. "We used this money to make primary repairs; window glass, electrical systems, bathrooms and roofs."

The civil affairs team assigned to 4-1 FA assisted with the coordination and monitoring of the project, said Staff Sgt. Steven Ayers, team sergeant from the 490th CA.

"With as many schools as our teams have worked on, we were able to assist (4-1 FA) with this project and help make sure everything ran correctly from a civil affairs viewpoint," Ayers said. "We monitored the contractor's work and made sure the sponsor got what they paid for. We are quality control."

The Kalid Al-Walid elementary school is one of 55 schools located within the 4-1 FA area of operations. Nearly every school in the area has an ongoing project or is scheduled to be renovated by the artillerymen and civil affairs personnel in the near future, but a great response from the community is the icing on the cake of a job-well-done for 4-1 FA and the 490th.

"The people here have shown they realize the Americans are here to help and make things better for the Iraqi people, and especially for the children," Bowyer said.

Ayers noted that the task of rebuilding Iraq is going to be most effective by starting at the ground up with the children.

"Fixing these schools is a big part of our responsibility because these children will eventually become the future of Iraq," said Ayers. "In the past they were taught 'Saddam Hussein is victory,' but with the correct instruction, the right tools and good facilities, we can help these children grow and turn Iraq into a great country."

MPs train Iraqis for embassy duty

Story and photos by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Civil defense members play an increasingly important role in the security and stability of Iraq.

Soldiers from the 382nd Military Police Detachment, an Army Reserve unit from San Diego, Calif., have been training Iraqi civil defense members as security officers for the several foreign embassies across Baghdad to ensure the safety of the diplomats visiting and working there.

The security officers, known as diplomatic protective services (DPS), are receiving training from U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi experts in everything from marksmanship to first aid.

"We are teaching how to search baggage, personnel and vehicles, and how to spot (improvised explosive devices) on vehicles and around buildings," said Sgt. Reggie A. Ceehorne, a military police investigator with the 382nd and head instructor for the DPS.

The five-day, 15-part DPS training includes weapons safety and marksmanship with the AK-47. They also receive in-depth first-aid training from Iraqi medical experts, said Ceehorne.

With the high-profile nature of DPS duties, every trainee had to undergo in-depth background information screening, Ceehorne said.

"The DPS are more specialized than most other civil servicemembers, so they had to be carefully screened for ties to any kind of terrorist or criminal activity," Ceehorne said. "The men and women that make it into these classes are educated and willing to learn."

Sgt. 1st Class. Armando Solario, 1st platoon sergeant for the 382nd, is the main supervisor for the 100-student DPS training classes. After all the screening, selection and instruction, Solario said the DPS trainees have been a pleasure to teach and train.

"Tomorrow, we will graduate our fourth class, averaging 90 graduates each class," said Solario. "These men and women have been receptive to the ideas we are teaching because they understand they have an important

role to play," said Solario. "They know they are representing their country"

Muna Waly, one of eight female DPS trainees, shares a sense of pride in what her fellow countrymen are accomplishing. She said she is proud of her job and excited to be able to protect her country against "enemies of liberation"

"We have trained in several areas to ensure the safety of the people we protect," she said. "While the Iraqi police watch over the population and deal with criminals in the streets, the DPS watch over the guests of Iraq - their safety is the highest importance."



Dr. Zaid Mohammed Al-Saadi, a physician at Al Hakim Hospital and translator for Military Police in Baghdad, demonstrates to diplomatic protection service trainees how to treat a casualty during the first aid portion of their instruction Jan 14.

Coalition honors Iraqi civil service members for valor, sacrifice

Story and photos by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson



The minister of interior, CPA, pins an award for valor on the chest of an Iraqi civil defense member while Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1st Armored Division commander, looks on in the auditorium of the Iraqi Convention Center in Baghdad during the recognition ceremony Jan 9.

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division, along with personnel from the Coalition Provisional Authority, recognized Iraqi civil service members who committed valorous acts or made significant sacrifices in the line of duty Jan 9.

More than 180 awardees were honored during the ceremony at the Iraqi Convention Center in central Baghdad for outstanding acts in the name of peace and security in their country.

During the ceremony, Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1st Armored Division commander, along with various ministries and advisory council chairmen, expressed gratitude for the hard work and willing spirits of the civil servants for making Iraq a safer place.

"These awards are for the (Iraqi Police Services), (Facility Protection Services) and (Iraqi Civil Defense Corps) members who were injured or killed, or committed heroic acts in the line of duty," said Maj. Linda Scharf, civil military officer for 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored

Division. "Family members of those who were killed went up on stage to accept the awards for their loved ones."

The official party pinned each medal on the chest of, and personally congratulated, each awardee.

The valor and sacrifice medals are emblazoned with an outline map of Iraq and the slogan, "Serving the country is an honor." Each medal was accompanied by a monetary award.

"The 1st Armored Division finds it important to award a job well done not only for soldiers, but also for the IPS, FPS and ICDC," said Scharf. "All these men here are committed to their duties and are stepping out and making sacrifices for their country and their people. They are working to make Baghdad more secure, and they deserve recognition for that."

Scharf believes the recognition ceremony will contribute to the morale and motivation of Iraq's civil servicemen.

"These men have shown they will pay the price to see a better Iraq," she said. "Today was a step in that direction."

1-1 Cav mortars register

Photos b



Sgt. 1st Class David Yomes, 32, from Tacoma, Wash., the mortar section sergeant enters data into the mortar ballistic computer to compute the best fire solution.



Spc. Kevin Luke, 20, from Wapato, Wash., gunner, makes minute changes to the 120mm mortar weapons system.



Pfc. Obie Adler, 21, from Manchester, N.H., prepares a 120mm mortar round with the appropriate explosive charge during the mortar section's registration.

r on target

y Staff Sgt. Mark Bell

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(Clockwise from left) Spc. Kevin Luke, 20, from Wapato, Wash., gunner, makes additional changes to the 120mm mortar weapons system. Spc. Michael Muniz, 26, from San Francisco, Calif., communicates with the forward observers located more than 3 kilometers away during the mortar section's registration. Pfc. Obie Adler, 21, from Manchester, N.H., releases a 120mm mortar round into the tube.

Artillery, armor units training to deploy overseas as MPs

By Spc. William Addison and
Staff Sgt. Pascual Flores
Army News Service

FORT DIX, N.J. -- Artillerymen normally pride themselves on their weapons, so when about 2,500 National Guard members were informed they were being deployed without their howitzers, it came as a shock.

Fort Dix has been designated a mobilization and training center for field artillery and armor units that are being deployed for missions normally performed by military police companies, said Col. Lonnie Barham, chief of the Strategic Mobility Division at Dix. Other artillery units have been training in MP skills at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., home of the Military Police School.

The National Guard units chosen for this new mission designated "in lieu of," hail from various states from as far west as Texas and spanning the east coast from New Hampshire and Vermont to Florida.

Eleven National Guard units are already training at Fort Dix, including guardsmen from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The post expects the remaining units to arrive within the next 6-8 weeks.

While at Dix, the units will go through the normal mobilization process, such as the Soldier Readiness Check center that includes medical and dental evaluations, inoculations, and a full administrative review.

Then for the next 40 days, MP training will be conducted by various elements of the 78th Division (Training Support), from Edison, N.J. Soldiers whose passion is making grid squares disappear will learn new skills outside of their military occupational specialty.

Specifically, the Soldiers will be training in two aspects of the MP field, Maneuver and Mobility Support Operations, and Area Security operations. Some of the tasks include route reconnaissance and surveillance, convoy escorts,



Spc. Chris Duffy, left, and Spc. Robert Groves, 107th Field Artillery, Pennsylvania National Guard, experience the fire power of an MK-19 40mm automatic grenade launcher at Range 59C, Fort Dix, N.J., as they train to deploy for a military police mission.

mounted and dismounted patrols and cordon and search techniques to name just a few.

The artillerymen will also be required to qualify on much smaller weapons than they are used to, including the M-16 or M-4 carbine, M-9 pistol, MK-19 40mm automatic grenade launcher, M-203 grenade launcher, AT-4 anti-tank weapon and M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon, known as the SAW.

Most of the Soldiers training for this new mission welcomed the new experience.

"My 3rd Platoon 'Scorpions,' are in high spirit on this new mission and their high morale even surprises me, said 1st Lt. West Martin, 112th Field Artillery, New Jersey National Guard.

"We have been at the ranges for the past week learning all types of weapons," West said.

"Guards are familiar with rifles and pistols, but now we are getting proficient and comfortable with the Army's vast array of individual and crew-served weapons."

"As Guardsmen, we partake in civil disturbance training once a year and in October 2001 we were mobilized for Operation Noble Eagle, tasked with providing security at airports, bridges and tunnels," West said.

With all the changes going on within the Army, Soldiers like those in the 172nd New Hampshire National Guard have learned to cope with the pace.

"The key to our success is what we have been told all along -- be flexible," said Sgt. Brad Mills about his unit's ability to learn the new skills. "With every obstacle there's something to overcome and we are used to being adaptive," he added.

"I think everyone who's in the artillery would rather tow a M-198 behind them, but a mission is a mission," said Sgt. Bill Chaussee, also of the 172nd.

"It came as a disappointment," said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas McGee, platoon sergeant for 4th Platoon, 172nd Field Artillery from New Hampshire. "There are a lot of us that love artillery, but we can adjust."

Also participating in this training are guardsmen from Pennsylvania armor and air defense units.

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available from 1700 to 1900 as needed, but individuals must provide own body armor, helmet and weapon. See Sgt. Bridgeford for more details. NO ACCESS from 1900 to 0900.

'Convoy' range to help deploying troops

By Fred W. Baker III
Army News Service

FORT SILL, Okla. - A new live-fire range to train deploying troops on convoy operations opened this month at Fort Sill, Okla.

Lessons learned in the sands of Iraq have led to the new training, mandated by the Coalition Forces Land Component Command. Officials said they hope it will give troops the skills they need to combat insurgents who see military convoys as easy targets.

"I'm tired of dust being my main meal," said Spc. Brooke Davis, brushing herself off after a trip through Fort Sill's new Live-Fire Convoy training range.

Davis was one of the first Soldiers to be trained on the newly developed convoy range Jan. 12. She was training with the 120th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), an Oklahoma Army National Guard unit headquartered in Okmulgee, with units in eastern Oklahoma.

The 600-Soldier unit was mobilized in December and is at Fort Sill training for deployment to Iraq.

The new training is designed to counter "the number-one thing that is getting Soldiers killed right now," said Capt. Boyd Sharp. "Convoys are getting hit hard."

Sharp is with the 1st Battalion, 290th Training Support Battalion at Fort Sill. His Observer Controller/Trainer's team is responsible for ensuring deploying reserve units meet training requirements before deploying.

Because of the hazards of traveling bumpy, dusty trails with Soldiers packed into vehicles with loaded weapons, Sharp's team takes the units through a three-day train-up before allowing them on the range.

The three days are a combination of classroom work and battle drills, said Sharp. Once on the range, though, the training is as realistic as it can safely be, he said.

Soldiers convoy through a 1.3-kilometer rural route, loaded in the wheeled-vehicles they would take with them to combat.

Along the route, the convoy scenarios include losing a vehicle to an Improvised Explosive Device and insurgents attacking using a Rocket Propelled Grenade.

About 60 man-shaped silhouettes are spaced from 30 to 312 meters away from the convoy route representing insurgents. Grenade and field artillery simulators and smoke are used by the OCTs to add to the realism. The unit is required to move casualties and Soldiers from a "destroyed" vehicle to another convoy vehicle, while providing security. Each step is

evaluated, and the convoy is given the opportunity to improve each trip through.

The units typically convoy through the range three times. First, for a "dry-run" with no ammunition, next using blank ammunition and, finally, using live rounds. The range is only for familiarization, not qualification.

But, despite its realism, the real value behind the range is its intellectual property, said Sharp. Nearly all of his OCTs are combat veterans. Also, the range was built with cooperation by C Battery, 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery. The unit came home from Iraq in June, and applied its lessons learned in the range's development, said Buddy Leavell, Range Operations Officer.

Staff Sgt. John Lee was in Iraq in October. He is now one of the OCTs, helping to train the reserve units. Lee said the new training is needed.

"As quickly as we come up with new tactics, the enemy is studying those tactics so they can counter-attack," he said. "We've got to stay one step ahead of them."

Lee said that the live-fire portion of the convoy training is needed to closely simulate what the Soldiers would experience in combat.

"The most realistic training you can get, is what you need," he said. "Over there, Soldiers will not have a 'safety' over their shoulders watching them. It's going to be their call."

His partner, Sgt. 1st Class Brian Trimble, is a Desert Storm veteran. He said the training standardizes convoy operations for the units.

"Regardless of what type of convoy you're in, you should react the same," Trimble said. He also said the training focuses the Soldiers, so that if they are attacked, they know how to respond.

"Some have the tendency to want to suppress the enemy on their own, and they lose sight of their focus," Trimble said. "Success is measured by getting all of your people and all of your equipment from point A to point B safely."

"It's good training. If they'll adhere to the training, they'll make their mission successfully."

A Company, 120th Engineers Platoon Leader 1st Lt. Claude Oliver said the training has built confidence in the Soldiers in his unit, and puts his troops in the proper mindset to go to combat.

"Confident Soldiers react better under pressure. It definitely makes a difference," Oliver said.

"This is what you might have to do," he said. "You need to look to the left and to the right and realize that what you are training on might save someone's life."

Staff Sgt. Cleydon Reynolds is an electrician and plumber with A Company. Despite the support role his unit plays on the battlefield, all of the members of his unit are "Soldiers first," he said.

"Everybody needs to know how to survive in a combat situation," he said. "This kind of training sums it up. I have no doubt that this training has prepared us for the scenarios over there now."

Despite the dust, Davis said she liked the training. She is a college student with less than three years in the unit.

"It makes you realize how it's really going to be. You can't just be joking around in the back of a truck. You have to be ready for anything," she said.

In addition to dust, the fair-skinned specialist hates the sun. This brings more laughter from other Soldiers waiting for the unit's After Action Review.

She doesn't even go to the beach, Davis said.

"It's one big beach over there," said one of her fellow Soldiers.

Despite the hardships, Davis said she doesn't regret joining the military.

The convoy training, and other training, her unit has received here has helped build her confidence, she said.

"I've learned a whole lot since we've been here. I think there would be something wrong with you if you weren't a little nervous," she said. "But I trust my unit."



Photo by Fred Baker III

Soldiers from the 120th Engineer Combat Battalion, Heavy, provide security during a blank-fire drive through of the newly developed Live-Fire Convoy training range at Fort Sill, Okla., Jan. 12.

1-1 Cav team registers mortar tubes at Falcon

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Bell
372nd MPAD

CAMP STEEL FALCON, Iraq - Similar in concept to the M-16 "zeroing" process, but very different results when a 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment mortar section registered, or "zeroed" their weapons system on Friday in southern Baghdad.

Using the large 120mm mortar ammunition round, the seven-man mortar team from Apache Troop, based in Bodingen, Germany, was quick to place rounds within 50 meters of their intended target to register the team's weapon.

"Our goal is to put rounds on the target," said Sgt. 1st Class David Yomes, 32, from Tacoma, Wash., mortar section sergeant.

Using long-range tactical radios to "walk" the devastating impacts of the high-explosives to within meters of a known target in an open field, forward observers who were positioned more than 3,000 meters from the loud, thunderous thump of gun powder launching the 30-pound munitions, were able to allow the gunners to registered their tubes using only a few rounds.

As the mortar plate settled into the mud-like swap of Camp Steel Falcon from the harsh shock of the cordite launching the rounds that instantly rocketed into the clouds, the crackling sounds of the distant forward observers calling minute corrections gives the team knowledge they are only one or two rounds from registering and calling it quits for the afternoon.

After two successful near impacts and the third mortar round already in the hands of the assistant mortar gunner, "Check Firing, Check Firing, Check Firing!!" screamed across the radio speakers from the brigade tactical operations center, which halted all fire-mission activities instantaneously. As team members echoed the commands, the round was slowly placed back into the protective casing and members of the team looked dazed on what could be causing such an action. Anything from innocent bystanders entering the impact zone to aerial disasters waiting to happen can stop all mortar registration missions.

Several minutes later, two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters appeared over the 20-foot-high wall separating Camp Steel Falcon from the rest of southern Baghdad, stopping all mortar registration activities.

Although the chances of a small round impacted a moving aircraft is slim, the phrase, "Big bullet, little sky," is how the aviators see mortar and artillery rounds, said Maj. Rick Bower, DIVARTY fire support officer.

Bower said because of safety systems built into the mortar registering process, any aircraft flying near the path of a mortar round automatically ceases all fire missions.

After a few minutes, the sounds of the rotor blades increasing speed and lifting the aircraft up and out of sight of the team, brought the adrenaline rush back to the muddy mortar pits.

Within seconds, the mortar team transformed from a casual, friendly chat to the shouts of rigged mortar commands. With the "green" light from the brigade headquarters tactical operations center, Yomes' crew quickly readjusted their tubes and readied a third mortar round again.

Using the mortar ballistic computer, Yomes was able to accurately and quickly determine any corrections to the direction, elevation and the



The trail smoke from the high explosive charges launch a 120 mm mortar round during the section's tube registration on Friday.

amount of explosive charge used to zero in on the stationary target.

"It definitely helps me determine the firing solution for my guns," he said after successfully registering his mortar tubes. "Within two minutes, we are able to send rounds down range and on target because of the advance firing system we have today."

With the earth-shattering thump and the smell and site of expelled smoke, the team sent another round safely down range and on target to ensure their calculations were correct.

"The best thing about working with mortars is you can shoot and hit them, but they can't see you," said Pfc. Obie Adler, 21, from Manchester, N.H.

Although the whole science of slide rulers, charts and basic instinct are almost long gone and the age of high-tech computers and weather detachments assisting the delivery of effective, lethal explosives more than 3 kilometers away, Adler said it still takes the soldier to get the job done.

"I love this job," he said. "No one understands us, but everyone wants to drop a round in the tube."

Whether they are providing lethal indirect fire support or reaching out to help build a community in southern Baghdad, the Apache Troop mortar team said being a Soldier is all about being a member of a team.

"The best thing about working with mortars is you can shoot and hit them, but they can't see you."

**Pfc. Obie Adler, 21,
from Manchester, N.H.**

A note from the doc...

Throughout this deployment our soldiers have been subjected to a myriad of healthcare facilities. I know that in my Battalion the medical system started with an aid bag, progressed to a truck, then a building and finally resting on a full service aid station. Now that we have displaced to this new location, the medical system has to once again establish itself. It is the purpose of this article to give an explanation of where the facility is, what type of medical systems are available and when this care could be rendered to someone if needed.

First of all lets describe the location of the aid station. I will use the chow hall as a point of reference. If you utilize the dining facility you will notice that it sits on the southeast corner of a "T" intersection. Directly north of the dining facility (towards downtown Baghdad) is a building with a sign in front of it that displays "Medical Company". This is the FOB medical facility. All units will use this as their primary aid station and sickcall building except for the paratroopers in the 2/504 PIR. They will have an aid station in the building on the opposite side of the dining facility.

Now that you should have some idea on how to find the aid station, lets talk about the different types of medical care that could be expected once you get there. The staff is completely professional and trustworthy. They currently have three doctors and two physician assistants and multiple highly motivated medics to run the treatment section. They also have a patient hold that is overseen by an RN and staffed with specialty medics. Within the aid station there is also a world-renowned dental facility complete with staff. Like any other echelon II care facility there are radiology and laboratory departments. The psychological department is inbound and expected to close on the FOB within the next week or two. Routine eye care will have to be transported to the division optometrist, which is located on BIAP. There may also be a scheduled visit by him were units can have soldiers rotate through during that visit. The unsung heroes of the medical company, which is well represented, are the evacuation assets. There are 5 ambulances with crews to assist in the evacuation from the FOB or even to have during large-scale missions out in zone. As you can see, we have an excellent combat multiplier that will ensure that routine, as well as trauma care, is available when needed.

I guess the last items to discuss are the hours of operation. Now common sense must dictate. I have to mention that because I have noticed that common sense is not so common. Emergencies are definitely 24-hours-a-day. Sickcall is the thing that needs to be discussed. Currently the sickcall hours for dental care are 0900-1600 hrs, Monday through Saturday. Medical sickcall is 0730-1700 hrs every day.

Now that you know where and when to go, you also should have a good idea on what to expect when you do go. Although we do not have surgical capabilities on the FOB, we can still evacuate patients to the 28th Combat Support Hospital if needed. If you have any questions about sickcall or any other type of care, visit your assigned medical personnel or stop by the Echo Company 123rd Support Battalion Aid Station.

Do your part to stop crime

By following the guidance below, you will assist development of pro-coalition sentiment in our district and you will prevent payment of U.S. taxpayer money to criminals who will use the money to make more IEDs.

The DIVARTY JAG office is responsible for paying Iraqi civilians for legitimate claims of damage caused by U.S. Forces. By the same token, the JAG is responsible for denying payment of fraudulent claims.

If you cause physical injury, death, or damage to the property of a local Iraqi, take the following steps.

1. *Write a quick note to the victim.* Be sure to include the following information: description of the injury or damage, your name, unit, date, and location. The note is for the Iraqi to give to the JAG office, so, of course, write it in English (no translation necessary). The purpose of this note is to help corroborate the Iraqi's story.
2. *Tell the victim to go to the District Advisory Council office (DAC) to file their claim.* Do not tell the victim to come to FOB Falcon.
3. *If you have a camera, take photos.*
4. *If possible, acquire the victim's name.*
5. *Report the incident to the DIVARTY JAG office* (Room 103, DIVARTY TOC; DNV 551-5104; jamal.owens@1ad.tac.1ad.army.mil).

JAG will need the same information that you provided to the victim. If a Serious Incident Report is made, forward a copy of the report to the JAG office.

If these actions are not reasonable because of safety or operational necessity, report the incident to your local JAG office.

LAUNDRY

INDIVIDUAL DROP-OFF ALLOWED
MAXIMUM DROPOFF OF LOAD: 20LBS
THREE DAY TURN-AROUND
PRESS \$1/ PER ARTICLE
PATCH SEW-ON FOR TIPS

Gym Hours of Operation:
0600-2200
FRULATTI BAR
COORDINATE WITH
SHIRLEY FOR WRESTLING
MAT
(UNIT PT)

Worship Services

Sunday 1000 Chapel Protestant

Sunday 1300 Chapel Catholic Mass

Sunday 2000 Chapel Gospel

weekday programs

Monday	Coffee & Donut Group	Thursday	Bible Study
Tuesday	Bible Study	Friday	Prasie Team Practice
Wednesday	Gospel Choir Practice		

all times at 2000

PX New Hours Open Everyday 0800 to 2000

Barber Shop hours
0830-1600
Sunday through Thursday

Mensi's Coffee Shop
Open 24 hours a day

Finishing kick: Vinatieri field goal lifts Pats

HOUSTON (AP) -- Back and forth it went. The Patriots were ahead. The Panthers were ahead.

The Patriots were ahead, then the Panthers tied it.

And then came the most reliable foot in the football.

Adam Vinatieri won the Super Bowl for New England for the second time in three years with a 41-yard field goal with 4 seconds left to beat Carolina 32-29 on Sunday night.

"Nobody makes all of them. But if you've got to have one kick with everything on the line, he's the one you want kicking it," New England coach Bill Belichick said. "It was an awesome kick. It was a great kick. That's the game. That's what Adam's here for."

Vinatieri earlier missed a field goal and another was blocked. But as he did in 2002 when he kicked the winning field goal to beat St. Louis on the final play of the Super Bowl, he proved he is perhaps the NFL's best clutch kicker.

For a contest that was scoreless for a record 27 minutes, this game was one of the greatest offensive shows between two of the league's best defenses.

There were a record 37 points scored in the fourth quarter alone, and Tom Brady, who led New England on its winning drive, was 32-of-48 for 354 yards and three touchdowns. The 32 completions were also a Super Bowl record.

Brady was voted the game's MVP for the second time in three seasons, although he did throw a second-half interception that prevented New England from winning more easily.

"You know you might have a chance at the end of the game to win it," Vinatieri said.

"I looked up and it was going right down the middle."

Before the game, played in the city that is home to the nation's space program, there was a tribute to NASA and the crew of the shuttle Columbia, which broke up over Texas exactly one year ago.

And before the second-half kickoff, Justin Timberlake tore off part of Janet Jackson's top, exposing her breast during the halftime show, and a streaker was tackled on the field.

It made fans wonder what was in store for the second half. The teams didn't disappoint.

Carolina had tied the game at 29 with its third fourth-quarter TD on a 12-yard pass from Jake Delhomme to Ricky Proehl with 1:08 left. Then John Kasay kicked the ball out of bounds to give New England field position at its own 40.

Brady moved the Patriots 37 yards in six plays, hitting Deion Branch to set up Vinatieri's winning kick, which prevented the Super Bowl from going into overtime for the first time ever. It also gave New England its 15th straight victory.

The Patriots led 14-10 at the half, and after

a scoreless third quarter, they made it 21-10 on the second play of the fourth on a 2-yard run by Antowain Smith. That capped an eight-play, 71-yard drive featuring a 33-yard pass from Brady to tight end Daniel Graham.

Carolina wasn't about to give up, though, scoring on DeShaun Foster's 33-yard run on a six-play, 81-yard drive. But the 2-point conversion pass was behind Muhsin Muhammad and it was 21-16. The decision to go for 2 would come back to haunt coach John Fox.

The Patriots seemed ready to put the game



New England Patriots kicker Adam Vinatieri (4) is mobbed by teammates Christian Fauria (88) and Ken Walter after kicking the game-winning field goal in the waning seconds of the fourth quarter of Super Bowl XXXVIII in Houston.

away when they got the ball back, but Brady made a rare mistake -- throwing an off-balance pass that Reggie Howard intercepted in the end zone.

Two plays later, Delhomme found Muhammad behind the New England defense for an 85-yard score, the longest play from scrimmage in Super Bowl history, to give the Panthers a 22-21 lead with 6:53 left. Fox again went for the 2-point conversion and failed.

It was the first time since Nov. 23 that New England trailed. The last time was also in Houston, when the Patriots rallied from 20-13 down in the fourth quarter to beat the Texans 23-20 in overtime on, what else, a field goal by Vinatieri.

The Panthers' lead didn't last long, either.

Brady came back with a TD pass to line-backer Mike Vrabel with 2:51 remaining, and Kevin Faulk ran in for the 2-point conversion to give New England a 29-22 lead.

About two minutes later, Delhomme and Proehl hooked up to tie the score, giving Vinatieri another chance to be a hero.

"I thought he kept us in the game," Carolina coach John Fox said, referring to Delhomme, who rebounded from a 1-of-9 start to throw for 323 yards. "They kept battling back. Unfortunately they had the ball last."

After the scoring drought to open the game, the Patriots and Panthers finally got going -- 24 points in the final 3:05 of the first half that left New England with a 14-10 lead.

The Patriots dominated that dormant period and finally took a 7-0 lead on the first of two 5-yard TD passes by Brady. The quarterback found Branch after Vrabel had sacked Delhomme, forcing a fumble and giving New England the ball at the Carolina 20.

At that point, New England had outgained Carolina 125 yards to minus-7, and Delhomme was 1-of-9 for 1 yard and had been sacked three times.

But the Patriots' touchdown seemed to wake up the Panthers. Delhomme led Carolina on a 95-yard drive, tied for second longest in Super Bowl history, capping it with a 39-yard TD pass to Steve Smith, who beat Tyrone Poole in single coverage. That tied it at 7-7 with 1:14 left in the half.

Brady came right back, hitting Branch for 52 yards behind Ricky Manning Jr. to set up the second 5-yard TD pass, this time to Givens.

Carolina wasn't finished, either.

Vinatieri squibbed the kickoff and Kris Mangum returned it 12 yards to his own 47. With 12 seconds and a timeout left, the Panthers crossed up the Patriots by handing the ball to Stephen Davis, who rushed 21 yards to the New England 32.

After a timeout, Kasay kicked a 50-yard field goal to close the half.

New England looked as if it might get off to a quick start, shutting down the Panthers on their first possession, then moving to the Carolina 13 after Troy Brown's 28-yard punt return.

But Vinatieri's 31-yard field-goal attempt was wide right. It was only the third time he had missed indoors in 34 attempts, all of them in Houston.

The Patriots continued to keep the Panthers backed up.

Carolina got its first first down with just over 2 minutes left in the first quarter on a holding penalty on New England's Ty Law but had to punt three plays later. Carolina's defense held up its end -- Will Witherspoon ended another Patriots threat by dumping Brown for a 10-yard loss on a reverse to take New England out of field-goal range.

With just under 9 minutes left in the second quarter, the Patriots reached the Carolina 38. Brady's third-down sneak was barely stopped, then Antowain Smith barely got the 6 inches on fourth down, a spot that was upheld on replay.

The Patriots reached the 18, but Vinatieri's 36-yard attempt was blocked by Shane Burton.

Three plays later, Vrabel stripped Delhomme and Richard Seymour recovered.

On third-and-7, Brady, the self-described "slowest quarterback in the league," scrambled up the middle to the 5. On the next play, he found Branch in the end zone for the game's first score.